

# **POLITICS OF THE DAY**

## **HIGH OR LOW PRICES.**

The following question was asked of Mr. Owen, fusion candidate for Congress in Minneapolis:

Supposing the present amount of money is doubled and that prices in consequence should increase in the same proportion, where would the benefit come in? For example: A now sells 1,000 bushels of wheat for \$500; after the increase in money he gets \$1,000 for his wheat, but he can buy no more with his \$1,000 than he could with his \$500?

Mr. Owen's answer was as follows: "If one is to spend his entire income as he goes along, gives no thought to accumulation, and is out of debt, it would make no difference, providing everything went up or down in exactly the same proportion. But no man is prosperous unless he sells more than he buys. The laborer must sell his labor for more than it costs him to live or he is ever a slave; the farmer must get more for his crops than it costs to produce them or he will be in the same fix; the merchant must sell more than he buys, including cost of doing business, or he will soon be a bankrupt. If a farmer sells 1,000 bushels of wheat for \$500 and expends in the operation \$400 he has \$100 left. If he gets double price for his wheat and pays double expenses his balance is \$200. If he is in debt, and that is the condition of most farmers, unfortunately, the difference to him is enormous, for he can pay twice as much debt with the same effort as under low prices. But it is not true that all products will advance exactly alike. Destroy trusts, for instance, and without that no monetary system will afford much relief, and many articles of necessity would not advance because they are already higher priced than they would be if competition obtained in their manufacture and sale. And again, processes of making many things the farmer has to buy are cheapening much faster than the methods of producing farm crops, and while more abundant money would make the price of the first higher they would ever be relative to cost of production. Railroad transportation would not be higher, because it has not decreased locally with the decrease of price of commodities. Taxes would be no higher by reason of more money, for taxes have not decreased by reason of less money. And certain other fixed or arbitrary charges are in the same condition. But better than all figures and theories are the facts of history and experience, and they prove that prosperity is always more general and trade and industry flourishing, the people more contented and happier in periods of high prices. At the close of 1895 Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, reported officially "that the people are now substantially out of debt," and that was after a period of excessively high prices and high taxes. There is no better test of the real prosperity of a people than their freedom from debt. In periods of high prices people can and do buy more, homes are better and better furnished, and their inmates better clothed, deprivations and want are minimized, labor is better employed, merchants are busier, railroads have more to do, factories are crowded with work, and farmers are in their best estate. The world's ages have been dark or light as money has been scarce or abundant, or prices high or low. No theories of those who now want to enslave the world's producers by the bond method can dissipate these facts of history."

## **Coinage Ratio.**

Why should the coinage ratio between silver and gold be fixed at 16 to 1? Because that is the proportion, as near as can be ascertained, in which the metals exist in the earth. It is, therefore, the true ratio.

Although for several years the production of one metal at that ratio exceeds the other, yet in a long series of years the total amount produced is very near sixteen times as much silver as gold, or at coinage value, about equal.

The table of the production of silver and gold from 1741 to the present time shows that there was produced in that period 360,459,124 ounces of gold and 5,727,841,723 ounces of silver. Divide the silver by the gold and you will obtain as the result 15.89. That demonstrates that for the period of more than 150 years there was almost exactly 16 times as many ounces of silver produced as of gold, and that the coinage value of the same was about equal.

Our gold friends tell us that the mint is open to the free coinage of silver in Mexico and ask why does not that establish the parity of the metals. They talk of Mexico as if it were a gigantic power. Do you know that the commerce of Mexico is not equal to that of the State of Illinois, and would you expect the State of Illinois, unaided by the rest of the States in the Union, to establish the parity of the metals?

The reason Mexico does not establish the parity of the metals is because it is not sufficiently powerful in commerce to do so, but when you compare Mexico with the United States you compare a pigmy to a giant. You must remember that this great nation is composed of forty-five great States, and that an act of Congress is simply an international agreement in itself among those forty-five great States.

In determining what a powerful effect such a nation as the United States would have in establishing the parity of the metals, you must take into consideration the pivotal position that it occupies as to the monetary sys-

tems of the world. The silver standard nations, which make their demands upon silver alone for currency, constitute one-fourth of the nations of the world in commercial importance.

## **Silver Remonetization.**

Republicans who are extremely anxious to convince the people that silver sentiment is dead are saying that "events have changed the conditions since 1896." In what direction have the conditions been changed? Is the oppression of the people because of the gold standard relaxed in any degree? Are the prices of real estate advanced? Has the farmer experienced any benefits not brought about by foreign causes, such as the famine in India and the short crop of wheat abroad? As a matter of fact, the necessity of bringing about the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 is more apparent to-day than ever. And as another matter of fact, there are more people to-day in the United States who favor such a change than there were in 1896.

In the south the silver question is very much alive, but not more so than in the west and northwest. So far as labor is concerned, the conditions are such as to demand the remonetization of silver. In this connection the Atlanta Constitution says:

"In certain classes of labor—the cotton operatives of New England—wages are in some instances below the pauper labor of Europe. A gold standard ad-

lines are now being definitely assured, and all material bought. People are beginning to buy lands outside of city limits. The suburbs are all showing a healthy growth, and in the heart of the city the tearing down of old buildings and replacing them with modern ones goes on without cessation. And this seems to be an example of conditions throughout the republic."

How is it possible that a gold standard paper, in gold standard New England, can give publicity and credence to such reports about a silver standard country, a country of 50-cent dollars? How about that other country, composed largely of the same kind of people that inhabit Mexico, that gold standard country, Spain? A written answer is not necessary, everybody knows it. Only a little over a year ago the foregoing description would have applied to Japan as well as Mexico. Japan was a silver, or bimetallic, country, and was developing and prospering in a marvelous manner. She was uncoined into adopting the gold standard, and is now in the market as a heavy borrower of gold to relieve the severe business depression she is experiencing! War may distract attention from it for a time, scarcity of products may for a few months seem to disprove it, but the passing years proclaim with doleful emphasis that the gold standard is a blight that withers wherever it strikes.

## **Japan Was Buncoed.**

There was no country in the world more prosperous than Japan, until she was induced to adopt the gold standard. When the usurers got their clutch on her throat, strangulation speedily ensued. "War indemnity" is not the trouble. Germany was prosperous until she fell under the gold standard. She conquered Austria and France and created the German Empire under the

## **SPREADING IT ON.**



Vindication of St. Alger (?)—Chicago Democrat.

vocate will either not admit this or he will say that it is not a serious matter; but it is a very serious matter, indeed. By cutting off a part of our money supply we have suffocated demand in our home markets. To remedy this we have reduced wages to the European pauper level in order that we may compete with the products of this pauper labor in its own natural markets. Can that which gives the whip hand to misery, poverty, distress and degradation in this country be called a great victory for American trade?"

No, indeed; silver sentiment is not dead, nor have events changed the conditions since 1896. The monetary question is the great issue of to-day and will continue to be the great issue until it is settled and settled right.

## **Sixteen to One or Bust.**

In response to a letter of inquiry written to Secretary Gage, the treasurer of the department at Washington states the total cost of the Spanish war from the beginning until August 31st after the close at \$105,000,000. This is less than half the amount of the gold the McKinley administration is now hoarding in the treasury, yet it has had the hardihood to force an issue of \$200,000,000 in bonds to draw interest from the scanty earnings of American labor! This money was not borrowed for war purposes, but to prevent the circulation of other money—of the \$200,000,000 in Mr. McKinley's Wall street "war chest." The Wall street plutocracy compels the producers of the country to pay interest on one bond issue after another in order "to maintain the gold reserve"—that is, to keep over \$200,000,000 in gold locked up out of circulation in order to increase the demand for and interest on national bank notes. A national bank note represents the extreme of inflation. It is 100 cents less than nothing. To demonetize silver and lock up gold in order to force the inflated and valueless paper of private corporations into circulation on the public credit is not only to invite but to compel panic after panic. For the business of the country—not less than for the Democratic party—it is 16 to 1 or bust!—St. Louis Journal of Agriculture.

## **Gold—Silver—Prosperity.**

A City of Mexico special to the Boston Herald says: "The general rise in real estate value is noteworthy. Many large industrial concerns are being established here, and large tracts of land near the railway have, in six months, quadrupled in price, while suburban lots show a continual upward tendency. The city is growing as never before in its history, and electric traction street car

silver standard. Her troubles began when the usurers induced Bismarck to accept the gold standard. That great man bitterly repented what he called a great mistake, claiming that he had been misled by the "financiers."—Cleveland Recorder.

## **To Whitewash Alger.**

It is quite just to call the committee appointed to investigate the conduct of the war "McKinley's committee." McKinley appointed the members of this committee to investigate the proceedings of Alger, who was also appointed by McKinley, and it looks as though the whole thing would be strictly a family affair. The whitewashing job has begun. The Chicago Democrat feels justified in calling it a whitewashing job from the fact that a large working majority of the members of this committee is made up of strong administration partisans, and from the conduct of the committee since it arrived in Washington. It is alleged that all of the members of the committee seem to be "very friendly to the administration." This is significant of the kind of verdict that will be rendered. Should the committee continue to work in secret it will demonstrate its inability to understand the temper of the people, and its findings will have little or no weight when they are made public.

**Reform Needed in Army Affairs.** The only way in which we can avoid a repetition of the misconduct of our armies in case we again become involved in war is a reorganization of our military system on the latest and most approved lines of the science of warfare, and to absolutely eschew politics in its administration. We do not require a large standing army, but we do need a thoroughly modernized, unified system capable of standing any strain that may be put upon it.—Detroit Free Press.

## **An Incredible Report.**

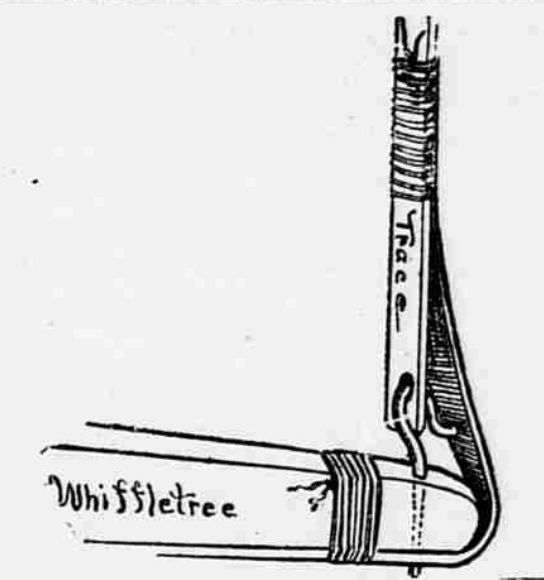
Washington dispatches state that Mr. McKinley is "considering an order changing the civil service rules so as to permit a large number of appointments without competitive examinations to offices now under the civil service rule." We shall not believe it unless we are compelled to. Such a change would be in direct violation to the party platform and of his own still more explicit voluntary public pledges.—New York Times.

## **Just So.**

McKinley was elected President because he was powerless to do aught but the will of his masters. Of a quiet disposition, orderly and well disposed, he takes care of his family, goes to church, and leaves Lombard and Wall streets to take care of the state.



**Cultivating in an Orchard.** Young fruit trees greatly need to have the soil about them cultivated. In working about trees, however, the whiffletree is almost sure to bruise the bark, sometimes quite spoiling the tree, unless the greatest care is exercised. The cut shows a neat little device for avoiding this difficulty. A bit of old



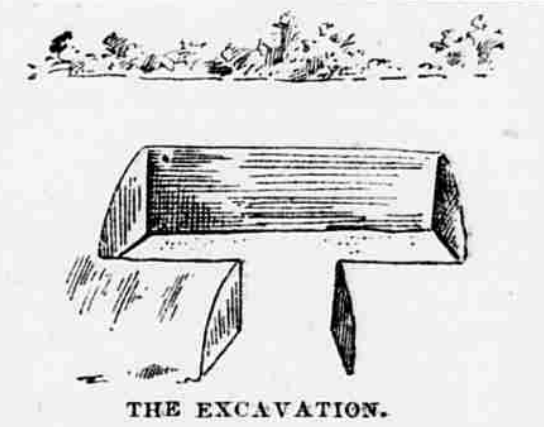
trace is tied to the whiffletree and carrier about its end, as shown. It is then tied to the tree, when it will prevent the whiffletree iron or wood from bruising the bark of any tree it happens to strike. The importance of preventing injury to young trees is recognized by but few. If badly hurt, the tree never fully recovers.

## **Farm Poultry Houses.**

It is much better where large numbers of fowls are to be kept to build several houses for them, and to make them light enough so that they can be drawn on a stone sled from place to place, thus avoiding contamination of soil and the disease which will almost certainly follow if the same land is used for a hen run. From twenty to thirty hens are enough for a single house. If more are kept they will be in each other's way, and it will be strange if egg eating or other bad habits do not become contagious among them. The most important thing about the location of the poultry houses is that all the land around them shall be underdrained. This will enable the plow or cultivator to be used almost any time when the ground is unfrozen. Drained land is much dryer for poultry than the hill-side or knoll which is often recommended for that purpose.

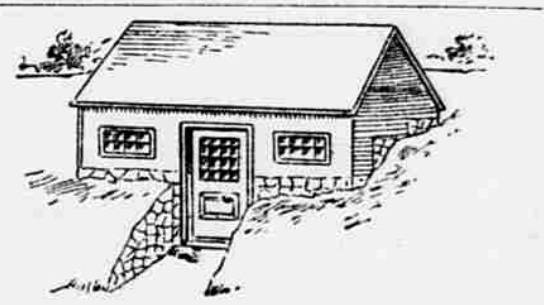
## **House for Winter.**

The cut shows a method of securing great warmth in a house that can be used either for poultry or for the storage of fruit in winter. An excavation



THE EXCAVATION.

is made in a side-hill, as shown in the first picture. A stone foundation wall is then laid and the house shown in the second illustration erected. Not a great amount of excavating is required, as the earth that is thrown out helps build up the bank that is to protect the house on all sides. A drain laid below the



HOUSE COMPLETE.

foundation, and brought around to the south entrance, will take care of the water that comes down from the higher ground.

## **Late Pigs.**

Pigs farrowed during September will get a good start before winter. Late pigs are liable to be checked by severe cold. The most profitable pigs, however, are those farrowed in the spring and slaughtered late in the fall, as they need not be kept over winter. Farmers do not now give much attention to raising pigs farrowed in the fall unless they are patrons of a creamery and have an abundance of material for feeding, which only the pigs will consume.

## **Unripe Corn as Seed.**

It is a mistake to suppose that only after corn has glazed it is fit to be saved for seed. It will grow equally quickly if in the milky stage, provided due care is taken to dry it out before it is frozen. This unripe corn loses a great deal while drying, and makes a very shrunken appearance. But the germ is in it, and it will sprout more quickly than grain that has a larger amount of starch. But the germ is not so strong as that from well-ripened corn that has been well cared for, and the latter is therefore always to be preferred in saving seed. There are some-

times seasons when it is hard to find well-ripened corn for seed, and it may interest some to know that unripe corn can be used for seed in such cases.

## **Harnesses to Fit Horses.**

Whenever a horse is sold the harness in which it has been used to working ought always to go with the bargain. No two harnesses were ever made to fit alike, and especially where the pressure comes on the shoulder or neck in drawing. The skin under the old harness has been gradually toughened by pressure on one spot. But with the new harness the pressure is shifted, it may be only an inch or two, but it comes where the skin is tender and will quickly break when exposed to the collar. If the whole harness cannot go, be at least sure to secure the collar with any new horse purchased, so that the animal can work without being tortured. The collar once used for one horse never ought to be used for another.

## **Uncleanly Milking.**

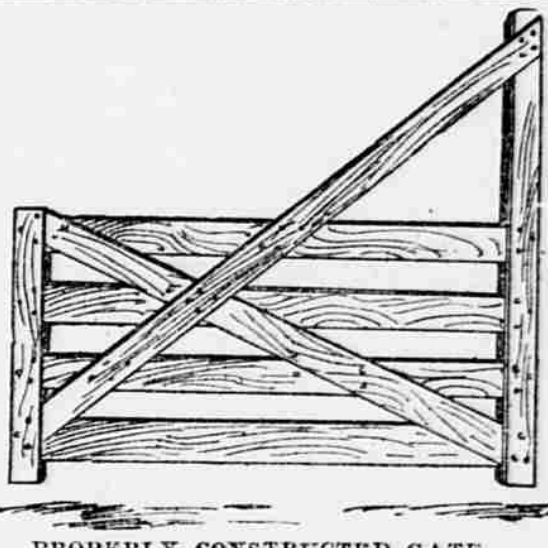
The souring of milk is caused by bacteria which are in the dirt on the cow's udder, milker's hands, pails, strainer and cans and in the dust in the air. Under favorable conditions these bacteria double every twenty minutes, and a single germ in a pail of warm milk increases to eight germs in an hour, sixty-four in two hours, 4,096 in four hours, and at the end of twelve hours, if the growth was unchecked, it would require eleven figures to write the number of bacteria springing from a single germ. With careless milking 500,000 germs have been found in a cubic inch of fresh milk.—United States Bulletin.

## **To Propagate Gooseberries.**

Gooseberries are propagated to some extent by cutting, but generally by layers. The earth is heaped in a mound around the bushes and the young sprouts will strike roots. They should be planted in rows 4 by 4 on a rich heavy soil, well cultivated and heavily pruned. The fruit grows on the buds formed on a 2-year-old wood, and on spurs and buds of older growth. Pruning should be directed to cutting back the new growth and occasionally cutting out extra shoots. Some cultivate in low tree form, but the shrub form is the more natural way of growing.—Denver Field and Farm.

## **A Gate that Will Not Sag.**

Most farm gates begin to sag at the outer end after a little use, thus caus-



PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED GATE.

ing oftentimes much inconvenience. If the upright at the hinges can be kept rigidly in place there is no reason why a gate should sag if it is properly constructed. A proper construction is shown in the accompanying illustration, two braces being used, both of which hold the outer end of the gate rigidly in place. Farm gates are often made of material too light to be strongly pinned at the ends of the bars. This is a mistake, as secure pinning is necessary in order to give the braces a chance to do their work.

## **Orchard and Garden.**

Look out for the black knot on the plum trees. Cherry culture is the simplest of all fruit culture. Wood ashes is a valuable fertilizer for the raspberry. Worm fruit in the orchard is the best disposed of by sheep.

Cutting of roses may be made as the wood acquires firmness.

Cut out every cane affected with rust among the blackberries.

Cutting out is about the only sure remedy for the peach borer.

Old bones buried near trees or grape vines will have a good effect.

Luck in planting is the result of good common sense and judgment.

In budding, the scions should always be of the current season's growth.

Cut off and burn all branches found affected with the tent caterpillar.

Clear the raspberries and blackberries out well, treating all useless sprouts as weeds.

Every farm should have one orchard for home purposes, proportioned to the needs of the family.

A mound of earth built up hard and sharp around the stem of young trees will help to protect them from mice.

The orchard may be made to serve two purposes, one the production of fruit and the other as a range for poultry.

If the trees need pruning, it is easier to prune as soon as the necessity shows itself than after several seasons of neglect.

It is rather poor economy to produce fine fruit, and, then, by bad packing and careless marketing, lose the proper reward.

Where the old berry canes are removed in the fall always burn them, to destroy any disease or insect pests that may be on them.

Plants that appear healthy and yet make no growth are very often starved. Give them a good mulching of manure after stirring the ground.

One objection to late cultivating both in the orchard and among small fruits is that it tends to induce a late growth that does not have time to ripen.

A good shaped tree has much to do with the appearance of the orchard and the earlier they are looked after the easier will be the work of properly caring for them.

## **MADE IT HIMSELF.**

The Treasurer Knew the Money Was Good.

Ex-Treasurer Jordan frequently amuses his friends by telling of an exciting experience he had while treasurer of the United States. Mr. Jordan occasionally indulges in joking remarks, uttered with a serious countenance. It was the indulgence of this proclivity, says the Washington Star, while connected with the Treasury Department, that came near resulting in his introduction to a pair of handcuffs and incarceration in a dingy cell. Mr. Jordan had occasion to make a trip to New York just at a time when a new \$5 bill was issued by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It happened that the treasurer, on the day of starting on his trip, drew a portion of his salary, and the cashier handed him a bunch of the new \$5 bills, which had reached the office within an hour. When he arrived in New York, Mr. Jordan proceeded to purchase some needed articles and handed the clerk one of the new bills. The clerk had never seen money that looked like that bill, which was spotless and uncrumpled by handling. He examined the alleged money and the man who gave it to him with equal care. Mr. Jordan watched him with suppressed amusement, and remarked in a matter-of-fact way:

"It's good money. I made it myself."

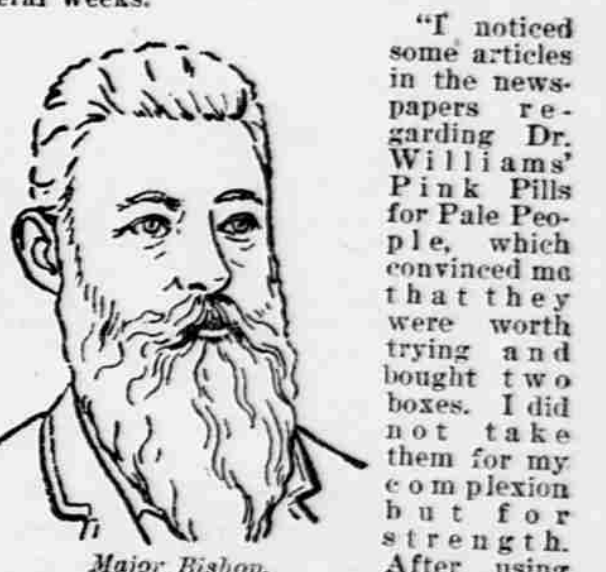
That was enough for the clerk, who went to the cashier's desk with the bill. There was a hurried conference, and a message was sent to police headquarters over the telephone. In a short time a couple of detectives in citizens' attire were standing on either side of the treasurer of the United States. They waited there to watch developments, fumbling their handcuffs in their pockets. In the meantime the cashier studied the new bill further, looked carefully over his counterfeit detector, and rummaged through treasury circulars relating to the issuance of money. Finally he came across a description of the new \$5 bill which was to be issued by the Treasury Department. His message had not yet reached the clerk, who was exchanging significant glances with the detectives and watching Mr. Jordan, when the latter, getting tired waiting for his change, and realizing that his new money was probably puzzling the cashier, produced his card. At the same moment the cashier's message reached the clerk, the detectives wandered off with crestfallen countenances and the treasurer proceeded to the nearest bank, where he exchanged his new bills for money that had passed through a thousand hands and was far from being sanitary.

## **THE MAJOR'S EXPERIENCE.**

From the Detroit Free Press.

One of the staunch supporters of the deep-water way from the Great Lakes to the ocean is Major A. C. Bishop, of 715 Third avenue, Detroit, a civil engineer of wide experience and considerable prominence in his profession. He was assistant engineer on the Hudson River Railroad in 1850, and has since conducted large engineering operations. He has been located in Detroit since 1815, and as a large acquaintance among the business men and citizens of this city.

Two years ago, for the first time, Major Bishop was in the hospital. For two months he had the best of medical attendance, but when he was discharged he was not like the Major Bishop of old. When asked regarding his health, he said: "When I had my last spell of sickness and came out of the hospital I was a sorry sight, I could not gain my strength, and could not walk over a block for several weeks."



Major Bishop.

better, and know they did me worlds of good. I am pleased to recommend them to invalids who need a tonic or to build up a shattered constitution.

"A. C. BISHOP." Subscribed and sworn to before me this eighth day of January, 1898. ROBERT E. HULL, JR., Notary Public.

**Best Dressed Man in Peking.** Jung Lu, the new viceroy of Chihli, is one of the most popular generals in the imperial army. He has always been a dandy in dress, and has a reputation of being the best dressed man in Peking, while the glided youth among the Manchub nobility always copy his dress and swear by "Jung Lu's style." His horses and mules also have ever been the finest in Peking, not even excepting the emperor's stud, and he loves to mount the most fiery and restive cattle when riding out. This has led to several picked horses sent as tribute to the emperor from Kuldja and Mongolia, but which no one could ride owing to their untamed and restive spirit, being specially presented to Jung Lu by the emperor's command. This is the man who now holds the responsible post of guardian of the dragon throne at Tientsin.—Peking and Tientsin Times.

**How to Strengthen the Eyes.** A simple and excellent plan to preserve and strengthen the eyes is this: Every morning pour some cold water into your wash bowl; at the bottom of the bowl place a silver coin or other bright object; then put your face into the water with the eyes open and fixed on the object at the bottom. Move your head from side to side gently, and you will find that this morning bath will make your eyes brighter and stronger and preserve them beyond the ordinary allotted time.